



RANGE REVIEW

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National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

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Thank You to all the producers who participated in our recent surveys. The results you requested are in this issue.

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HAY PRICES DECLINE

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agricultural commodities sold during May was 98 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The **All Livestock Index** was down 3 points (3 percent) from last month, but up 6 points (7 percent) from last year. Most livestock items were lower than last month but still higher than a year earlier. Calf prices averaged \$99.00 per hundredweight in May, down \$1.00 from April but still \$2.20 higher than last year. Lamb prices, at \$94.00 per hundredweight, were up \$2.00 from April and \$21.90 above May 2002.

The **All Crops Index** was down 6 points (5 percent) from April and down 3 points (3 percent) from May 2002. Prices were slightly higher than last month for most crops but hay prices dropped significantly. Alfalfa hay averaged \$105.00 per ton in May, down \$9.00 from April but still \$1.00 above May 2002. Other hay prices dropped \$10.00 per ton from April.

Crop prices were higher than in 2002 for all crops except dry beans. Dry beans averaged \$18.50 per hundredweight in May, up \$1.00 from April but still \$8.90 lower than last May.

The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May was 107, based on 1990-92=100, up 6 points (6 percent) from the April index. All commodity group indexes except potatoes, dry beans, tobacco, and the other crops category increased since last month. Higher prices for lettuce, hogs, broilers, and soybeans more than offset lower prices for eggs, asparagus, onions, and tomatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cantaloupes, grapes, sweet corn, and peaches offset decreased marketings of cattle, dairy, apples, and asparagus.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 11 points (12 percent) from May 2002. Higher prices for cattle, lettuce, corn, and soybeans more than offset lower prices for dairy, potatoes, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

WINTER WHEAT PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Based on conditions around June 1, winter wheat production in Wyoming this year is expected to total 4.48 million bushels, up 96 percent from the 2002 crop and 56 percent more than the 2001 crop. The 2003 crop would be comparable to the 2000 crop of 4.08 million bushels but still 27 percent less than in 1999 which was the last pre-drought crop. The 2003 average yield per harvested acre is forecast at 28 bushels, up 9 bushels from 2002, up 4 bushels from 2001, and 2 bushels above the May 1 forecast. The total acreage expected to be harvested for winter wheat this year is 160,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from 2002 and 2001 but still 10,000 acres fewer than in 2000.

UNITED STATES: Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.63 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the May 1 forecast and 42 percent above 2002. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.6 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from the last forecast. Grain area totals 36.4 million acres, unchanged from May 1.

Hard Red Winter production is up 7 percent from a month ago to 1.01 billion bushels. White Winter, at 253 million bushels, is up 1 percent from last month. Soft Red Winter is down 1 percent from the last forecast and now totals 368 million bushels.

WINTER WHEAT, 2002 AND JUNE 1, 2003 FORECAST, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.							
State	Acres Harvested		Yield per acre		Production		
	2002	Indicated 2003	2002	Indicated 2003	2002	Indicated 2003	% 2003/2002
	1,000		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
WYOMING	120	160	19.0	28.0	2,280	4,480	196
Colorado	1,650	2,200	22.0	33.0	36,300	72,600	200
Kansas	8,100	9,700	33.0	44.0	267,300	426,800	160
Montana	750	1,700	28.0	38.0	21,000	64,600	308
Nebraska	1,520	1,650	32.0	44.0	48,640	72,600	149
Oklahoma	3,500	4,700	28.0	36.0	98,000	169,200	173
Texas	2,700	3,700	29.0	29.0	78,300	107,300	137
Washington	1,750	1,800	59.0	62.0	103,250	111,600	108
UNITED STATES	29,651	36,447	38.5	44.6	1,142,802	1,626,37	142

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 4 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.53 million head on May 1, 2003. Inventory was 4 percent below May 1, 2002 and 6 percent below May 1, 2001.

Placements in April totaled 1.87 million, 29 percent above 2002 and 21 percent above 2001. Placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 296,000, 600-699 pounds were 324,000, 700-799 pounds were 613,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 637,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.99 million, 1 percent below 2002 but 9 percent above 2001.

CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, MAY 1, 2002-2003 1/						
State	On Feed Apr 1, 2003	Place-ments Apr 2003	Market-ings Apr 2003	Other Disapp. Apr 2003	On Feed May 1, 2003	On Feed May 1, 2002
Thousand Head						
CO	970	200	165	5	1,000	1,080
KS	2,320	420	450	20	2,270	2,270
NE	2,190	320	420	10	2,080	2,170
TX	2,670	540	520	10	2,680	2,700
Oth Sts.	2,553	390	430	18	2,495	2,731
U.S.	10,703	1,870	1,985	63	10,525	10,951

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, MAY 2002, APRIL 2003, AND MAY 15, 2003 U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY								
COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		MAY 2002	APR 2003	MAY 15 2003	MAY 2002	APR 2003	MAY 15 2003	% OF PARITY
		Dollars			Dollars			Percent
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS								
Cows	100#	40.90	42.10	41.50	39.80	40.20	41.10	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	75.30	80.10	79.00	68.10	78.80	79.00	—
Calves	100#	96.80	100.00	99.00	99.50	99.10	99.30	46
Sheep	100#	25.20	30.60	28.00	25.30	30.90	1/	—
Lambs	100#	72.10	92.00	94.00	64.40	93.60	1/	—
CROPS								
Corn	Bu.	2.14	2.95	3.00	1.93	2.34	2.44	37
Oats	Bu.	1.85	2.00	2.00	1.99	1.99	1.96	48
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.92	2.14	2.20	1.89	2.22	2.47	—
All Wheat	Bu.	2.82	3.31	3.40	2.81	3.37	3.43	36
Dry Beans	100#	27.40	17.50	18.50	27.80	18.80	18.00	36
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	104.00	114.00	105.00	108.00	96.20	102.00	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	98.00	109.00	99.00	79.20	86.40	87.30	—
1/Mid-month prices discontinued January 1996. NOTE: Entire month price is a revision of previous mid-month price except for hay which is always a mid-month price.								
INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS & RANCHERS, WYOMING & U.S.								
1990-92 = 100		WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		MAY 2002	APR 2003	MAY 15 2003	MAY 2002	APR 2003	MAY 15 2003	
All Commodities		94	102	98	96	101	107	
All Crops		117	120	114	105	111	121	
All Livestock and Products		88	97	94	89	94	96	

U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during April 2003 totaled 500,000 pounds. This is up 14 percent from both March 2003 and April 2002. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Six hundred *cattle* were slaughtered, unchanged from a year earlier. Total liveweight was 721,000 pounds, up 13 percent from April 2002. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,171 pounds, 36 pounds heavier than last year.

Four hundred *hogs* and *pigs* were processed, up 100 head from a year ago. Total liveweight, at 95,000 pounds, was up 20 percent from April 2002. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 255 pounds, down 4 pounds from a year earlier.

One hundred *sheep* and *lambs* were processed totaling 14,000 pounds liveweight. Average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 142 pounds, down 2 pounds from a year earlier.

January - April red meat production was 2.1 million pounds, up 24 percent from the same period in 2002.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.85 billion pounds in April, down 1 percent from the 3.90 billion pounds produced in April 2002.

Beef production, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.97 million head, up 1 percent from April 2002. The average liveweight was 1,209 pounds, down 18 pounds from April a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.66 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.33 million head, 1 percent below April 2002. The average liveweight was 268 pounds, up 1 pound from April a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.4 million pounds, was up 2 percent from April 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 295,600 head, 6 percent above last year. The average liveweight was 132 pounds, down 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January - April red meat production was 15.12 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, pork was up 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 11 percent.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APRIL 2002 AND 2003, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Apr 2002	Apr 2003	Apr 2002	Apr 2003	% 03/02	Apr 2002	Apr 2003	Apr 2002	Apr 2003	% 03/02
			1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds		
Cattle	600	600	637	721	113	2,948,700	2,966,200	3,618,825	3,586,198	99
Hogs	300	400	79	95	120	8,425,300	8,333,500	2,253,148	2,231,821	99
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	14	14	100	278,900	295,600	38,343	38,868	101

FEWER AG WORKERS IN THE REGION

The tri-state hired labor force on farms and ranches during the week April 6-12, 2003 was down 32 percent from a year ago. During this period, 19,000 hired workers were working on farms and ranches in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region which includes **Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho. The total excludes agricultural service workers. The number of hired workers a year earlier was 28,000. The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 46.2 compared with 43.0 last April.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$7.93 per hour, down 7 cents (1 percent) from April 2002 and down 60 cents (7 percent) from January 2003. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$7.63 per hour compared with \$7.55 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$7.68 per hour compared with \$7.92 last year.

UNITED STATES: There were 938,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 6-12, 2003, down 13 percent from a year ago. Of these, 781,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 157,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.16 per hour during the April 2003 survey week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.40 per hour, up 34 cents from last April. Livestock workers earned \$8.75 per hour compared with \$8.43 a year earlier.

Number of hours worked averaged 40.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 40.2 hours a year earlier.

Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Regions and U.S., April 6-12, 2003 1/

Region		Hired Workers			
		Type of Worker			
		Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
		Dollars per hour			
Mntn I	2/	7.63	7.68	7.66	7.93
Mntn II	3/	8.32	8.86	8.60	9.43
No Plns	4/	9.08	9.28	9.16	9.46
U.S.	5/	8.40	8.75	8.49	9.16

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers
2/ Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming
3/ Colorado, Nevada and Utah

4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North & South Dakota
5/ Excludes Alaska



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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